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April 16, 2010

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West Pennsboro Volunteer Fire Company Receives Critical Fire Grant

Washington, D.C. – **Congressman Bill Shuster** is pleased to announce that the West Pennsboro Volunteer Fire Company of Plainfield, Cumberland County has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$85,785 through the Department of Homeland Security’s Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant Program.

The fire company will use the grant to purchase five sets of turn-out gear, new fire boots and 15 brand new SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) for its firefighters. These are critical improvements to the fire company since its existing equipment was purchased used and is reaching the end of its life cycle.

“I congratulate the firefighters of the West Pennsboro V.F.C. for their successful grant application,” said Congressman Shuster.

“It is important to realize that this critical equipment is extremely expensive for volunteer fire companies to buy on their own. Turn-out gear can cost \$4,000 per set and SCBAs can run \$6,000 each. With fire companies using fundraising to cover their operational costs, it’s critical that this grant program steps in to help with the other purchases fire companies must make,” Shuster added.

According to the company’s fire chief, Jim Ryan, “We are extremely grateful to receive this support from the federal government. We have been encumbered by old and outdated equipment that costs more to replace than we can afford and puts the lives of firefighters at risk.”

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program (AFGP) awards one-year grants directly to fire departments and rescue personnel to support the nation's first responders and the services they deliver. The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) administers the program, in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration.

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